AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A data service system in a data service network system, comprising:

a content server that statically stores a plurality of content files for access by external access requests, wherein a first of said plurality of content files comprises content stored in a full content format and wherein a second of said plurality of content files comprises corresponding content stored in an adapted content format which is less resource-intensive to serve than the full content format; and

an adaptive load control system coupled to said content server to pass the access requests to said content server, wherein the adaptive load control system modifies an access request address to access said second of said plurality of content files instead of said first of said plurality of content files by modifying a URL (Universal resource Locator) of the access request address when said content server is in an overload condition such that said content server is maintained at safe load conditions, said adaptive load control system comprising:

a load monitor that monitors the load condition of said content server without requiring monitoring of the network, said load monitor establishing the load condition of said content server by measuring an amount of time between when said content server receives the external access request and when said content server provides the external access request; and

a control and feedback loop configured for self-regulating partial degradation such that a fraction of said access request addresses are modified to access said second of said plurality of content files when said content server is in said overload condition.

2. (Previously Presented) The data service system of Claim 1, wherein said the adaptive load control system modifies the access request address to access said first of said plurality of content files to access the content in the full content format instead of in the adapted format when said content server is not in the overload condition.

3. (Previously Presented) The data service system of Claim 1, wherein the adaptive load control system further comprises:

a content adapter coupled to said load monitor and said content server to modify the access request address to access the corresponding said second of said plurality of content files to access content in the adapted content format instead of in the full content format when the load monitor indicates that said content server is in the overload condition.

4. (Previously Presented) The data service system of Claim 3, wherein said adaptive load control system further comprises an adaption controller coupled to said load monitor and said content adapter to cause said content adapter to modify the access request address to access said second of said plurality of content files to access content in the adapted content format instead of in the full content format when said load monitor indicates that said content server is in the overload condition.

5. (Previously Presented) The data service system of Claim 4, wherein said adaption controller determines if said content server is in the overload condition by comparing the load information received by said load monitor against a predetermined desired load value of said content server.

6. (Previously Presented) The data service system of Claim 3, wherein said content adapter modifies the access request address to access said first of said plurality of content files to access content in the full content format instead of in the adapted content format when said load monitor indicates that said content server is not in the overload condition..

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The data service system of Claim 1, wherein for each of said plurality of content files, said content server includes a service directory that directs

the modified access request address to access said first of said plurality of content files and said second of said plurality of content files.

9. (Currently Amended) In a data service system of a data access network system having a content server that statically stores a plurality of content files for access by external access requests, a method of maintaining the content server at safe load conditions, comprising:

determining load condition of said content server without requiring determining load conditions of a network when the data service system receives an access request address to access of a first of said plurality of content files statically stored in said content server comprising content stored in a full content format, wherein said determining of said load condition of said content server comprises measuring an amount of time between when said content server receives the external access request and when said content server provides the external access request; and

if said content server is determined to be in an overload condition, then modifying the access request address to access a second of said plurality of content files statically stored in said server and comprising corresponding content in an adapted content format instead of in the full content format by modifying a URL (Universal resource Locator) of the access request address, and wherein the adapted content format is less resource-intensive to serve than the content in the full content format such that the content server is maintained at the safe load conditions, and self-regulating partial degradation such that a fraction of said access request addresses are modified to access said second of said plurality of content files when said content server is in said overload condition.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9, further comprising modifying the access request address to access said first of said plurality of content files statically stored in said content server instead of said second of said plurality of content files statically stored in said content server ~~format~~ when said content server is determined not to be in the overload condition.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein the determining load condition further comprises:

obtaining the actual load condition of said content server using a load monitor; and

comparing the actual load condition with a predetermined desired load condition to determine if said content server is in the overload condition.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein the modifying the access request address is performed by modifying a URL of the access request address.

13-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein the determining load condition of said content server is performed either within said content server or external to said content server.